

PUBLIC LAND SALES.

On Saturday next the Government will illustrate the old-time method of selling public land which, though not without its advantages, has deprived these islands of a middle agricultural class while the mainstay of civilization and progress throughout all other English speaking countries.

The tract in question is at Hanalei, Kauai, and consists of about 1800 acres, part of which is good cane land. It is adaptable to pineapples and in the proportion of fifty acres to one farmer could be made to support thirty-six families of white people. The Government has placed an upset price of \$10 per acre on this tract, which would put the property in reach of the average man who would like to make the soil support him. But unfortunately—and here comes in the joker, hoary with tradition—the Government has divided the land into TWO tracts instead of THIRTY-SIX, thus putting it out of the reach of any man who cannot raise \$9000 to buy with.

Now appears the next familiar spectacle—two capitalists in partnership, who want the land, presumably for grazing purposes. They have had the tract under lease for a long time and for a while back it has been given over to lantana, of no value to anybody. Possibly the lantana was allowed to grow to make the tract look like a bad purchase to other people. At any rate things have so shaped themselves that these gentlemen are likely to get the 1800 acres at the upset price, thus subtracting forever from the public domain land which, anywhere else in the United States, WOULD BE OPENED UP TO THE AMERICAN PRE-EMPTOR.

What a sign of promise it would be if this whole proceeding were reconsidered and the Hanalei land divided into fifty acre tracts and offered under the Hawaiian laws framed to encourage colonists and homesteaders. The only objection we hear to this course in official circles is that there is no market at Hanalei. A sufficient answer to this is that while markets sometimes make population, population always makes markets. Once Hanalei begins to produce salable commodities there will be a way to dispose of them. On the mainland the pioneer always goes ahead of the market. Must he not do so here? Must he have the door of opportunity closed in his face because the market has not gone in ahead of him?

The most significant part of yesterday's war cable from the Russian base of Liaoyang was the admission that "the course of the battle appears to be unfavorable to the Russians." This, with the further statement that the Japanese had 1200 out of 1300 guns, was evidently designed to prepare the public for Russian defeat and supply an excuse for it. This morning the Russians appear to have gained a little more hope.

The Bar Association wants to weed out some of the ignorant practitioners in the District Courts. It is something that ought to be done for the protection of clients who often fail of getting justice because they have hired a lawyer who is one only in name. Many of these District Court lawyers have no more moral right to clients than quack doctors have to patients.

The wide-open primary has put Kauai Republicans at the mercy of Home Rulers. It was instituted as a factional device and has served no other purpose on Kauai or elsewhere. A decent respect for the rights of party men would lead the Republican convention to abolish it and confine the direction of Republican policies to people who vote for them at the polls.

A telegram from Chefoo says the Russian wireless telegraph station there has been dismantled. Its existence was a violation of Chinese neutrality as it was used for the benefit of the garrison at Port Arthur. Probably Japanese protests brought its usefulness to an end.

Mr. Lydecker, the Territorial Meteorologist, discontinued his work last night, the Federal observer taking charge today. Mr. Lydecker, who succeeded Prof. Curtis J. Lyons, has given the public a good service and the loss of his forecasts will be especially regretted.

Big Bill Devery has been invited to visit Judge Parker at Esopus. Bill, as a robust exponent of the "revenue only" idea in politics, cannot be counted out of any Democratic gathering without leaving a hole.

It isn't every cafe that can draw in judges for cooks though the public has often thought that some island courts had drawn on cooks for judges.

THE HAWAIIAN SITUATION.

The letter from P. C. Jones, published in the Advertiser yesterday, in its main features, is unusually strong and convincing, and will have great weight with all patriotic and intelligent citizens, who know the standing of the writer and the conditions to which he refers. It strongly grasps the Hawaiian situation, and powerfully supports the rising public sentiment, which the Advertiser has sought to awaken.

There are many who will differ from Mr. Jones on his general views of the Exclusion laws and on the proposition that Hawaii does not need special Congressional legislation on the labor question and special aid from the Executive Department of the Federal Government. But these points are only incidental to the main argument, which apparently is irrefragable.

The proposition, sustained by figures, that the Islands have gained \$7,000,000 and the rise of their 4 1/2 per cent. bonds to par, by annexation, as against the loss of nine millions or less withdrawn by the Federal Government, is transparently true and, once for all, refutes the reiterated statement that annexation has not been a commercial success. The argument against annexation upon the mainland, when that question was imminent, was not and could not have been placed upon the assumption that incorporation into the national territory would not be commercially profitable to the islands themselves. Such an absurdity did not occur to statesmen and citizens representing the substantial business of the nation. It was apparent that the transition from an overthrown monarchy and a temporary republic, in the midst of the Pacific, isolated from the progressive world and with a large Asiatic population, to full identification with the American Union, in a financial sense at least, could not fail to be locally advantageous. It was from the national and not from the insular standpoint that the legality and the expediency of annexation were doubted. It was claimed, first, that, under the Federal Constitution as interpreted and applied, the function of the United States was the establishment of commonwealths and the development of citizenship on the continent; second: that the extension of national sovereignty to the mid-Pacific would weaken and perhaps abrogate the Monroe Doctrine; and, third: that labor conditions in Hawaii would develop problems essentially different from those existing on the mainland and which would require distinct treatment.

These were the converging features of the opposition to annexation. No one, however, disputed the fact that the Islands would be benefited by acquiring a local habitation and a name in the great American family. The sugar interests, upon which Hawaii depended, were in a precarious state. They had been enormously advanced by the Reciprocity Treaty, to which intense antagonism, within the ranks of the Republican Party, had been excited. As Mr. Jones has aptly stated, a resolution for rescission had been adopted by a caucus of Republican senators, and would inevitably have resulted in the annulment of the treaty. Annexation, therefore, was vital to the predominant element in the property interests of the Hawaiian Republic. A protectorate could not have accomplished the same results.

Mr. Jones puts his finger on a prominent factor in the recent depression, when he attributes it to "reckless speculation." There were and are other factors, which are not within the scope of his communication or of this article. In his discernment of the practical benefits already derived from annexation, he is definite and exact, and in his prognostications for the future he displays acute sagacity. But his strongest proposition in relation to local necessities is expressed in the following extract, in which he unites with thousands of his countrymen in endorsing the settled policy which the Advertiser has advocated:

"The future of these Islands will be just what we ourselves make it. We want to do more than encourage tourists to visit us; we want, as your paper has been advocating, men with families to come in and take up our unoccupied lands and settle permanently in the Islands."

This paragraph is a nucleus, to which the prompt, earnest and decided attention of the Territorial and Federal Governments, and of the people at large, should be directed. The true interests of the Islands, of the entire population as distinguished from any special class, demand not only that the right kind of immigration should not be openly or covertly discouraged, but that it should be positively and directly invited and aided. The distribution of the unoccupied public lands among small farmers, of whom there are tens of thousands on the mainland looking for such opportunities, is a policy upon which the public, and especially the mercantile portion of the community, should immediately and effectively insist. If there is treachery in any quarter to this resounding demand of the times, it should be investigated and exposed. Under our institutions, equality of right "the greatest good to the greatest number," can be and repeatedly has been enforced, not only at the ballot box, but by that practicalized sentiment which is evidenced by acts rather than

by mere words,—by the irresistible force of union and determination. Sophistries, "men of straw," excuses, evasions and the political habit of "looking one way and rowing another," are easily handled by genuine public opinion, based on sound and unbiased judgment, and fortified by the truth.

The Advertiser repeats that what this Territory wants is Americanization and not paternalism, and that, when this fact is once realized and acknowledged, the solid people of Hawaii will simultaneously concur in the closing expression of Mr. Jones' important communication.

"I thank God that we have annexation and that I am an American citizen."

Nothing is heard from the Port Arthur defence but it is probably still doing business at the old stand.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

PICTURE OF GABRIELLE D'ANNUNZIO.

With what particularity the very person of a living author of the first rank may be studied a passage from an article on Gabrielle d'Annunzio in the August Critic will serve to testify. This is the impression the distinguished Italian dramatist left with Carlo de Fornaro: "His type is essentially the Greek of the period of decadence. The line from the forehead to the tip of the nose is nearly a straight line, but the nose is quite full at the end. The forehead is round, very bald, very high, intellectual; the eyes blue, large, cold, with heavy eyelids; the eyes of a keen observer, the eyes of memory. The mouth is sensual, but rather small and finely cut, with a short, aggressive little blond mustache; and the weak chin covered by a small blond beard. The hands, rather large for his small body, are very well shaped and carefully manicured. They are incessantly and mechanically lifting a monocle to his eyes from which it is suddenly dropped with a wink." A few more lines completes the picture: "All his movements and gestures are sacade and staccato and quite affected and stiff as a rhinoceros, or like a man who is trying on a new suit of clothes in front of a mirror. His voice is very melodious, and when he speaks in his flowery and pompous Italian you cannot help being charmed by the exquisite choice of words and the quaint originality of his thoughts."

HAVE MILLIONS IN JEWELS.

Now that the detectives say that the \$200,000 worth of jewels supposed to have been stolen from Mrs. Ogden Golet have been found it may be interesting to note that the gems stolen represented only one-fifth of this lady's possessions. The total value is said to be \$1,000,000. There are at least fifty women of the Newport colony whose jewels would appraise above the \$100,000 mark. There are ten who have upward of \$1,000,000 invested in rare stones. The value of Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt's jewels is popularly supposed to be \$500,000. Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt is said to possess \$1,000,000 worth, and Mrs. Herman Oelrichs modestly admits that she has gems to the value of \$500,000. The Mesdames Oliver and Perry Belmont have hats full of gems, and Mrs. E. J. Berwind and Mrs. Joseph T. Widener run close to \$1,000,000. While Mrs. Golet is supposed to head the list it is said that Mrs. Ogden Mills has precious stones to the value of nearly \$1,000,000, and those of Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish fall little short of this figure. It must not be supposed that these baubles are all kept at Newport during the summer and in places easily accessible to social highwaymen. As a matter of fact, they are most securely tucked away in safety deposit vaults in New York. It is only on rare occasions that they are worn, and then they are safeguarded by private detectives.

LIVING ON \$9 PER WEEK.

There has been so much talk recently about the cost of living in New York that a number of persons have taken to the habit of writing letters to the papers telling how they can live on \$10 a week. One male insect describes the process in this manner: "I have a hall bedroom, for which I pay \$3 a week. It is well furnished and in a tolerably respectable neighborhood. For breakfast I have a cup of coffee and two rolls. There are a dozen places along Third Avenue where they may be had for 5 cents. At noon I go to a first class saloon, and, after buying a glass of beer, I eat to repletion from the sideboard. I have been called down only about ten times out of a hundred. At night I go to a 30-cent table d'hote. This is a great occasion! They have music in these places, and I sit at a table for an hour and a half. I never tip a waiter."

PEARLS A PRODUCT OF DISEASE.

A private letter from Paris to one of the most prominent jewelers of New York admits that doubt no longer exists regarding the accuracy of Professor Dubois' discovery that the pearl in the oyster is the product of a disease caused by a parasite. Dr. Dubois has separated the bacillus, has propagated it, and oysters inoculated have become pearl bearers. It will surprise most people to learn that a large company has been in existence for several months to exploit the theory of Dr. Dubois. Many of the richest men in Wall street have stock in the corporation, and agents are already in the Persian Gulf and Palk strait, Ceylon, securing specimens of the pearl oyster from which cultures of the bacilli will be made in a local laboratory.

SUBWAY TAVERN IN A CHURCH WALL.

In tearing down the old Presbyterian church at Coshocton, O., to make way for the new \$50,000 structure, workmen came across a pint flask of whiskey, sealed up in the upper portion of a wall, thirty feet from the ground, on which was pasted the inscription, "For Pike's Peak." It is supposed the flask, which was nearly empty, although tightly corked, had been placed there by workmen for a joke when the church was erected thirty-five years ago.

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